



J-1 Scholar Coordinator Meeting

FALL 2022

GLOBAL EDUCATION OFFICE

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) in GEO

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Global Education Office

Advisors

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GEO/ISSS Staff pages:

<https://global.unm.edu/about-us/staff.html>

- ❖ **Office Hours**: Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm
- ❖ **Walk-in hours**: Monday-Fri 1:00pm – 3:00pm
- ❖ **Appointments**: Calendly (GEO Home Page)
- ❖ **International Scholar Orientation**:
- ❖ Thursdays 10:00 (1 to 1.5 hours) Use Calendly Scheduler
- ❖ Scholar Appointments here: <https://iss.unm.edu/contact-iss/contact-iss.html>

Meeting Agenda



What's New?

- ▶ DOS and Immigration Updates
- ▶ GEO Website Updates

Important Reminders

- ▶ Banner Entry
- ▶ J-1 Scholar Departure

Q&A!



What's New?


Updates from DHS, DOS and GEO

The Exchange Visitor Program's Rebranding of 2020




BridgeUSA

Connecting global leaders,
creating lasting impact.



<https://j1visa.state.gov/introducing-bridgeusa-a-new-brand-identity-for-the-exchange-visitor-program/>

Overall issues affecting international scholars



- Limited Local Employment-Based Legal Teams (H-1B Applications)
- Timely visa appointment challenges
- Consular Services vary world-wide

Proposed rule to eliminate *Duration of Status (D/S)*

- Proposal to limit admission of F and J students and scholars to 2 to 4 years max (2 year limit for those from 59 countries and those in *sensitive* disciplines)
- On July 6, 2021, the Department of Homeland Security officially withdrew its proposed rule to eliminate duration of status (D/S) for F students and their dependents, J exchange visitors and their dependents, and I media representatives. DHS received more than 32,000 comments during the proposal's public comment period, including NAFSA's comment letter that urged DHS "to withdraw this poorly conceived rule from consideration."

Incoming Scholar Information

[HTTPS://ISSS.UNM.EDU](https://iss.unm.edu)

COMING TO UNM

HEALTHCARE AND INSURANCE

IMMIGRATION AND TRAVEL

TAXES

ALSO, INFORMATION FOR HOSTING DEPARTMENTS
INCLUDING DS-2019 REQUEST FORM, DEPARTURE AND OUT
OF COUNTRY FORMS

Incoming Scholar Info & Website

- Research Scholars, Short-Term Scholars and Professors (J-1 Categories) must be in possession of an ORIGINAL valid DS-2019 and a J entry visa/passport to Enter U.S.
- Scholars are emailed Pre-Arrival Information
- Emailing original DS-2019s still against the law!

Scholars must be in J1 status to accept work

- To accept employment, a scholar must be in current legal J1 scholar status
- Must show valid status to complete I-9 requirements (be employable)
- Scholars who are maintaining J status, but are out of the US can continue to work remotely
- New scholars must enter the US to accept the paid position

English Proficiency Requirements

- ▶ Must have “sufficient proficiency in the English language, as determined by an objective measurement of English language proficiency, to participate in his or her program and to function on a day-to-day basis”
- ▶ Objective measurements:
 - ▶ Recognized English language test
 - ▶ Signed documentation from an academic institution or English language school; or
 - ▶ A documented interview conducted by the sponsor either in person or by videoconferencing or by telephone if videoconferencing is not a viable option (please be sure that someone is conducting a proper interview)

Health Insurance is Mandatory

- ▶ J1 Scholars are required to have health insurance for themselves and their dependents for their entire stay
- ▶ Requirements include medivac and repatriation
- ▶ Schools are also supposed to inform scholars of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) requirements, if applicable
- ▶ Minimum J1 insurance requirements provide LESS coverage than the ACA plans, but include medivac and repatriation which their visa status requires
- ▶ UNM employee plans include medivac

E-Packet for Scholars

- ▶ Scholars receive an e-packet with orientation information prior to arrival at UNM (used to be given after arrival only)
Information includes:

- ▶ Housing
- ▶ Health insurance
- ▶ Driver's License
- ▶ Getting Involved at UNM
- ▶ SSA information
- ▶ Avoiding scams





Don't forget!

J-1 SCHOLAR ORIENTATION

THURSDAYS AT 10:00 AM

NOW A ZOOM MEETING!

*NEWLY ARRIVED SCHOLARS
SCHEDULE THEIR ORIENTATION HERE:*

[HTTPS://GLOBAL.UNM.EDU/CONTACT-
US/SCHEDULE-AN-APPOINTMENT.HTML](https://global.unm.edu/contact-us/schedule-an-appointment.html) ON
ISSS TAB

WHY IS J-1 SCHOLAR ORIENTATION SO CRUCIAL?

- ❑ We review the J-1 Scholar's responsibilities in order to maintain valid J-1 status.
- ❑ We discuss the 12 and 24 month bars and the 212 (e) Home Residency Requirement.
- ❑ We make copies of the J-1 Scholar's immigration documents and collect address for federal record-keeping requirements.
- ❑ We collect insurance information for scholars who are self-pay.
- ❑ We give them instructions to apply for the Social Security Card.
- ❑ We give them information about campus and GEO services for them.



Important Reminders for J Scholar Coordinators



J-1 Scholar Departure

Departure issues

- ▶ Informing GEO of a scholar's departure is critical for compliance with federal regulations, so you need to let us know as soon as you know
- ▶ Once a "Research Scholar" record is ended they have to wait 2 years before they can enter in that status again, so you need to be aware of their plans
- ▶ If they will continue working on the same project at home, they have been in Research scholar status for less than 5 years, and they plan to return to resume work, there is a way to keep the record active via an "Out of Country" process

J-1 Scholar Notice of Departure



Please contact GEO if the J-1 Scholar leaves more than 30 days before the program end date so we can end the record!

Many scholars are subject to 12 and 24 month bars on repeat participation. A delay in reporting a scholar's departure delays the ability of the scholar to start accruing time to overcome the bars.

Entering the Scholar in Banner

- ▶ This is critical for the scholar to function at UNM!!
- ▶ As soon as the DS-2019 is issued!
- ▶ Contact the appropriate employment office immediately to begin the paperwork for “Visiting Colleague” or “Letter of Academic Title”; instructions are in the email you get when the DS-2019 is ready

Future Plans

- ▶ Assistance with bringing scholars:
 - ▶ What are the obstacles to bringing more scholars?
 - ▶ What is the climate like in your department re increasing/decreasing invitation of scholars?
 - ▶ Is there anything we can do to help?

New Coordinators!

- ▶ A separate training is planned (TBA) to review the basics of the Bridge USA program and UNM/GEO's DS-2019 Request form.



PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US!

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